

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-14 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 NSC-07 SCI-06 OMB-01 SS-20

PA-04 AID-20 AGR-20 H-03 DODE-00 PRS-01 EB-11 HEW-08

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4034

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TAGS: SNAR TU

SUBJ: PRESS ON U.S. JOINT RESOLUTION ON POPPY BAN

REF: USINFO P 092145Z

1. AS YET, RELATIVELY MINOR PLAY GIVEN BY TURKISH PRESS TO PROPOSED CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION ON LIFTING TURKISH POPPY BAN. IN FRIDAY (MAY 10) EDITIONS, MILLIYET (255,000) USED SINGLE-COL, TWO PARA ITEM CREDITING ANATOLIAN (NEWS) AGENCY ON PAGE ONE; HURRI ET HAD 3 PARA SINGLE-COL ITEM ON PAGE 3. LENGTHIER ITENT APPEARED ON IHV OCE # IN ANKARA DAILY BARIS (15,000); AND ISTANBUL LATE EDITION OF CUMHURIYET (80,000). BARIS ITEM IN FULL FOLLOWS:

"IN A DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED TO THE US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON DO ALL IN HIS POWER TO PREVENT TURKEY FROM LIFTING ITS BAN ON OPIUM PLANTATION.

"IN THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, IT WAS PROPOSED THAT IF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH TURKEY WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL, PRESIDENT NIXON SHOULD CEASE ALL TYPES OF ECONOMIC AND MILITARY

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AID TO TURKEY AS PROVIDED BY THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT.

"THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED TO THE SENATE WAS SIGNED BY MINNESOTA DEMOCRATIC SENATOR WALTER MONDALE AND NEW YORK SENATOR JAMES BUCKLEY OF NEW YORK.

"THE DRAFT RESOLUTION SUBMITTED TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CARRIES THE SIGNATURES OF CHARLES RANGEL AND LESTER WOLFF, WHO HAD VISITED TURKEY RECENTLY, AND TWO OTHER REPRESENTATIVES.

" THE REPRESENTATIVES AND SENATORS WHO PRESENTED THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, IN A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY, STATED THAT TO RENEW OPIUM POPPY PLANTATION IN TURKEY WILL GRAVELY ENDANGER THE HEALTH AND SECURITY OF THE PEOPLE

OF THE UNITED STATES."

2. NO COMMENTARY AS YET.

3. MORE EXTENSIVE PLAY GIVEN IN FRIDAY'S PRESS AND ON RADIO-TV THURSDAY (MAY 9) NIGHT TO INTERVIEW OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT BY GERMAN TV. NEWSPAPERS GAVE MAIN ATTENTION TO ECEVIT'S REPORTED REPLY TO ARTICLES APPEARING IN US PRESS ALLEGING THAT US MIGHT BEGIN POPPY CULTIVATION. HURRIYET'S HEADLINE ON MAY 10 "ECEVIT BLAMED LINE SURZTD # FROM OUTSIDE -- WHILE PLANTING POPPY, AMERICA CANNOT TELL US WHAT TO DO" WAS TYPICAL OF TREATMENT. THURSDAY NIGHT TV NEWS QUOTED ECEVIT AS SAYING THAT TURKISH PUBLIC OPINION AND POLITICAL PARTIES AS A WHOLE AGREE ON THE NECESSITY OF CHANGING THE DECREE BANNING PLANTATION, AND CONTINUED AS FOLLOWS:

"HOWEVER, WE ARE ALSO AWARE OF DANGERS WHICH MAY COME FROM USING TURKISH FOR EVIL PURPOSES, AND WE ARE VERY SENSITIVE ON THIS SUBJECT. WE ARE WILLING AND READY TO TAKE PREVENTIVE MEASURES OF OUR OWN DESIGN OR SUGGESTED BY FRIENDS IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS. WE ARE DETERMINED TO TAKE ALL KINDS OF MEASURES TO PREVENT OPIUM SMUGGLING." ECEVIT SAID THE WORLD IS IN NEED OF OPIUM POPPY PRO-

DUCTION FOR LEGITIMATE MEDICAL NEEDS, AND THAT
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INDUSTRY HAS SUFFERED A SHORTAGE DUE TO TURKEY'S BAN.
MACOMBER

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED

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